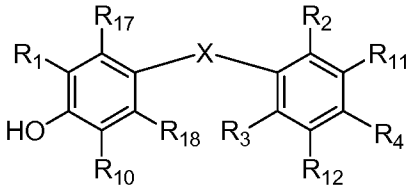
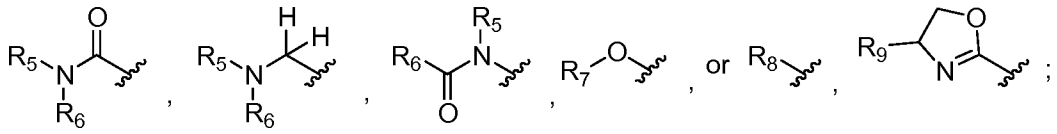
1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula



I

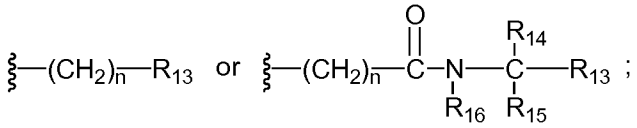
wherein

R1 is



R2 and R3 are the same or different and are hydrogen, halogen, alkyl of 1 to 4 carbons or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbons, provided that at least one of R2 and R3 is other than hydrogen;

R4 is



R5 and R6 are the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl.

R7 is aryl, heteroaryl, alkyl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl;

R8 is aryl, heteroaryl, or cycloalkyl;

R9 is R7 or hydrogen;

R10 is hydrogen, halogen, cyano or alkyl;

R11 and R12 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, and alkyl;

R13 is carboxylic acid (COOH) or esters thereof, phosphonic and phosphinic acid or esters thereof, sulfonic acid, ~~tetrazole,~~ hydroxamic acid, ~~thiazolidinedione,~~ acylsulfonamide, or other carboxylic acid surrogates known in the art;

R14 and R15 may be the same or different and are selected from hydrogen and alkyl, or R14 and R15 may be joined together forming a chain of 2 to 5 methylene groups [-(CH2)m-, m = 2, 3, 4 or 5], thus forming 3- to 6-membered cycloalkyl rings;

R16 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbons;

R17 and R18 are the same or different and selected from hydrogen, halogen and alkyl;

n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4; and

X is oxygen (-O-), sulfur (-S-), sulfonyl (-SO_2-), sulfenyl (-SO-) selenium (-Se-), carbonyl (-CO-), amino (-NH-) or methylene (-CH2-); and including all prodrugs, stereoisomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

3. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 2 and at least one additional therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of other compounds of formula I, anti-diabetic agents, anti-osteoporosis agents, anti-obesity agents, growth promoting agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-anxiety agents, anti-depressants, anti-hypertensive agents, cardiac glycosides, cholesterol/lipid lowering agents, appetite supressants, bone resorption inhibitors, thyroid mimetics, anabolic agents, anti-tumor agents and retinoids.

4. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is an antidiabetic agent selected from the group consisting of a biguanide, a glucosidase inhibitor, a meglitinide, a sulfonylurea, a thiazolidinedione, a PPAR-alpha agonist, a PPAR-gamma agonist, a PPAR alpha/gamma dual agonist, an SGLT2 inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, an aP2 inhibitor, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1), a dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor and insulin.

5. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is an antidiabetic agent selected from the group consisting of metformin, glyburide, glimepiride, glipyride, glipizide, chlorpropamide, gliclazide, acarbose, miglitol, troglitazone, pioglitazone, englitazone, darglitazone, rosiglitazone and insulin

6. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is an anti-obesity agent is selected from the group consisting of an aP2 inhibitor, a PPAR gamma antagonist, a PPAR delta agonist, a beta 3 adrenergic agonist, a lipase inhibitor, a serotonin reuptake inhibitor, a cannabinoid-1 receptor antagonist and an anorectic agent.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein said additional therapeutic agent is a hypolipidemic agent selected from the group consisting of a thiazolidinedione, an MTP inhibitor, a squalene synthetase inhibitor, an HMG CoA reductase inhibitor, a fibric acid derivative, an ACAT inhibitor, a cholesterol absorption inhibitor, an ileal Na^+/bile cotransporter inhibitor, a bile acid sequestrant and a nicotinic acid or a derivative thereof.

8. Canceled

9 to 15. Canceled

16. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition which functions as a selective agonist of the thyroid hormone receptor-beta comprising a compound as defined in claim 1.